

Motor Mill Foundation
Minutes
May 5, 2014

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, May 20, 2014. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Other board members present were Ellen Collins, Jon deNeui, Chuck Morine, Betty Buchholz, Lee Lenth, and Larry Stone. Clayton County Conservation Board director Tim Engelhardt, naturalist Abbey Harkrader, and intern Traci Ott also attended. Fred Stroschein was a guest.

MINUTES

Nikolai accepted the minutes of the April 15 meeting as printed and distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Morine submitted the following monthly report:

April 15 beginning balance	\$8,209.51
Receipts	
April 16 – donation, Clayton Co Farm Bureau	\$100.00
Expenses	
March 15 - Allam-Clayton Elec	\$32.24
April 15, 2014 balance	\$8,277.27
CONSERVATION RESERVE	
April 16, 2014 balance brought forward (negative balance)	(\$70,190.21)
Deposits	
Iowa Room – t-shirt & cap	\$27.99
Iowa Room t-shirt & hoodie	\$40.00
May 20, 2014 balance carried forward (negative balance)	(\$70,122.22)
CAPITAL FUND	
April 16, 2014 balance brought forward	\$10,533.30
Receipts	
Pleasant Point Grange donation	\$500.00
May 20, 2014 balance	\$11,033.30

TRIP TO DELL'S MILL

Collins gave a comprehensive report on the group's trip to visit Dell's Mill, near Augusta, Wis., on May 6. She noted that the owner set the scene in a historic, Civil War, time period. He included details such as ownership, the price of wheat, a day's pay, the cost of land, the significance of the McCormick Reaper, and the advantage given the North during the Civil War by the efficiency of new turbines. Collins liked the model turbine and the deed for the mill that were on display.

Collins and others commented on several hazards to visitors at the mill, and on inappropriate items not relating to milling that were on display or for sale.

Nikolai liked the idea of having bags of grain on a scale as a way to interpret how grain was brought to the mill.

Harkrader suggested that we could use a model of the mill dam at Motor to show how our Mill got its power. Engelhardt agreed that we could find a way, with a few visual aids, to better explain how grain was processed at Motor.

Nikolai noted that we have a set of drawings from Dave Metz, of Pine Creek Mill, which show the workings of Motor Mill.

Engelhardt proposed applying for a grant from Upper Mississippi Gaming to pay for laminating the drawings so they can be displayed. He said Ott could help write the grant application.

INTERNS

Traci Ott, an Iowa State University student from Elkader, has started work. She will be helping as a tour guide at the Mill May 24 and May 26. Then she will begin organizing material that has been gathered from first person interviews about Motor. She also will be working on an interpretive plan, with volunteer assistance from former naturalist Angi Reid.

MOTOR MILL TRAIL

Engelhardt is still pursuing trail options, despite the unwillingness of private landowners to allow a trail on the northeast side of the river. One possibility is the right-of-way along Galaxy, Grandview, and highway 13. Such a change would require a revised concept statement. Engelhardt will continue discussion with the board of supervisors, the county engineer, and a new contact person at IDOT.

REGIONAL TRAIL COUNT

The NE Iowa regional trails committee held a trail user count on May 10 and May 15. In the Elkader area, we counted people on the Pony Hollow Trail, the Elkader river walk, and the levee trail.

Totals:

May 10 – 43 bikes, 153 pedestrians, 12 horses

May 15 (partial day because of rain) – 4 bikes, 96 pedestrians

PARADES

Lenth noted that a number of communities have banned parade participants from throwing candy due to safety concerns for children along the route. He moved that the Motor Mill Foundation discontinue this practice. Buchholz seconded. Carried.

The board discussed ways to attract more interest to our parade float. Lenth agreed to contact Tom McGreal to see if he might be willing to ride on the float and play his banjo.

Another suggestion was to have someone (David Beck?) ride on or walk beside the float in an appropriate costume.

ANNUAL EVENT/FUND-RAISER

The Board discussed having an ice cream social as a fund raising event. One idea would be to invite people to come to help make the homemade ice cream. The tentative date is September 13.

FIELD TRIPS

The board agreed to take a field trip to the Wapsipinicon Mill and Heartland Acres in Independence on Tuesday, June 3. We will meet at Osborne at 8:30 a.m.

Collins suggested that we consider a future trip to a mill at Winona, Minn.xc

TV COMMERCIAL

Nikolai asked board members to come to Motor at 1 p.m. on Thursday, May 29, for the shooting of a tourism commercial for the Clayton County Development Group. Bring friends and family, as well.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

TURKEY RIVER RECREATIONAL CORRIDOR

There will be a "Turkey Trot" fun run on the Pony Hollow Trail in November.

FACILITIES

deNeui said volunteers have begun to install stair railings. He has asked Chris Grau to donate some 2x4s to use for supports.

Collins suggested moving the hay fork and rope, which may be a hazard to workers or visitors on the fourth floor of the Mill.

deNeui has purchased signs that read "Open for Tours – noon - 5 p.m." They can be hung on the Motor Mill signs on Grandview Road on days when the Mill is open.

deNeui has shelving that he will loan to the foundation to hold tools and supplies in the Mill.

GROUND

Board members are encouraged to attend a first aid and CPR refresher course at 9 a.m. on Friday, June 6, at Osborne.

Vandals with a vehicle knocked down several road signs near Motor on Friday, May 16.

EDUCATION

Buchholz showed a series of photos that she took during the visit to Dell's Mill.

NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 17, at the Osborne Conservation Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Nikolai adjourned the meeting about 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry A. Stone, secretary